Dkt. 2271/69885

DEC 15 2005

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Cation of: Hiroshi ISHIHARA

Serial No.: 10/625,111

Group Art Unit: 2672

Date Filed: July 22, 2003

Examiner: Eric V. Woods

For:

APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR IMAGE PROCESSING CAPABLE OF

ACCELERATING IMAGE OVERLAY PROCESS

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited this date with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Paul Teng
Reg. No. 40,837
Date

1185 Avenue of the Americas New York, N.Y. 10036 (212) 278-0400

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

## <u>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT</u>

Pursuant to the applicant's duty of disclosure, the information listed in the attached Form PTO-1449 is brought to the attention of the Examiner. A copy of the reference cited in the annexed Form PTO-1449 is also provided.

It is respectfully requested that the reference cited in annexed Form PTO-1449 be considered by the Examiner in connection with the above-identified patent application, and that such art be made of record in said application.

The enclosed reference was cited in a September 30, 2005 Chinese Office Action in connection with Chinese Application No. 031786936 which corresponds to the above-identified application. A copy of the September 30, 2005 Office Action is enclosed.

The citation of the listed items is not a representation that they constitute a complete or exhaustive listing of the relevant art or that these items are prior art. The items listed are submitted in good faith, but are not intended to substitute for the Examiner's search. It is hoped,

however, that in addition to apprising the Examiner of the particular items, they will assist in identifying fields of search and in making as full and complete a search as possible.

The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement is not an admission that the information cited herein is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(b).

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(4). A Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 was filed on October 25, 2005. To the best of Applicant(s) knowledge, this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the date of mailing of a first Office Action on the merits after the RCE filed on October 25, 2005 in connection with this application.

Alternatively, Applicants request consideration of this Information Disclosure Statement under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(c)(1). Each item of information listed in the attached Form PTO-1449 was cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior hereto. Accordingly, no fees are believed to be required in connection with this Information Disclosure Statement.

No fee is believed to be due in connection with the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. However, if any fee is required, authorization is hereby given to charge the amount of any required fees to Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

If a telephone conference would be of assistance in advancing the prosecution of the subject application, applicant's undersigned attorney invites the Examiner to telephone him at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Teng, Reg. No. 40,837

Attorney for Applicant Cooper & Dunham LLP

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New York, New York 10036

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